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OF THE UKRAINE]

By: A. A. Burmistrov

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ON 10/10/50

JPRS: 3645

CSO: 3944-D

**FIRST RESULTS AND NEXT TASKS IN THE COAL INDUSTRY
OF THE UKRAINE**

Following is a translation of an article by A. A. Burmistrov, Director of the Heavy Industry Section, Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, in the Russian-language periodical Ugol' Ukrainy (Coal of the Ukraine), Kiev, No. 1, January 1960, pages 1-6/

The results of the work of the coal industry in the Ukraine during the first year of the seven-year plan reflect very important events in the life of our country, which have determined the tasks of the workers in the entire national economy in creating the material and technical base of communism. We have in mind primarily the historic event of the XXI Congress of the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union], which approved the seven-year plan. The paths of the successful fulfillment of that majestic plan were set down in the decisions passed by the plenary sessions of the Central Committee of the CPSU and, in particular, in the decision of the June Plenary Session, which has become a fighting program for further technical progress.

In fulfilling the historic decisions of the XXI Party Congress and the June Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the workers of the coal industry of the Ukraine, together with the miners of the rest of the country, made a worthy contribution, during the past year, to the cause of the further development of the socialist economy of our Motherland.

The unprecedented labor enthusiasm of the miners, who were inspired by the decisions of the XXI Congress of the CPSU and the XX Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine; the widely developed socialist competition for the preterm fulfillment of the seven-year plan; the mass movement for the right to be called communist labor brigades; and hundreds of followers of the patriotic initiative of Valentina Gagonova provided for the preterm fulfillment of the production plan in the coal industry of the Ukrainian SSR for all indexes.

Miners of the Ukraine gave the Motherland 1,700,000 tons of coal above the plan. All the sovnarkhozes [councils of the national economy] fulfilled overfulfilled not only their planned assignments, but also their socialist pledges, as can be seen from Table 1.

On the eve of the new year of 1960, the remarkable labor victories were reported by miners of the Donbass to the Central Committee of the Communist Party and to the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR.

The miners of the Lugansk Sovnarkhoz, the initiators of a socialist competition among the miners for the preterm fulfillment of the assignments of the first year of the seven-year plan, produced more than 600,000 tons of coal in excess of the plan, increased their labor productivity by 3.7% as compared with 1958, and, by means of lowering the net cost of coal production, saved more than 2 million rubles. The miners of the Stalino Sovnarkhoz gave their Motherland 525,000 tons of coal, including 380,000 tons of coking coal, in excess of the plan.

TABLE 1

| | Production, thousand tons | | | Monthly productivity per worker, per mine, tons | | Net cost of coal, rubles | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--------|--------------------|---|--------|--------------------------|--------|-------|
| | Plan | Actual | % compared to 1958 | Plan | Actual | % compared to 1958 | Actual | plan |
| Stalino | 89,041 | 89,570 | 102.0 | 26.6 | 26.6 | 101.9 | 115.41 | -0.42 |
| Luganskoye | 61,884 | 62,500 | 101.7 | 24.8 | 25.0 | 103.3 | 114.81 | -0.05 |
| including combines: | | | | | | | | |
| Luganskugol' | | | | | | | | |
| Luganskoye Coal | 29,589 | 29,910 | 101.3 | 21.6 | 21.9 | 104.8 | 131.42 | -0.16 |
| Donbassantratsit | | | | | | | | |
| Donbass Anthracite | 32,295 | 32,590 | 102.1 | 29.3 | 23.3 | 102.4 | 99.55 | -0.03 |
| L'vov | 2,730 | 2,860 | 123.8 | 24.7 | 25.0 | 109.2 | 126.11 | -2.02 |
| Kiev | 11,500 | 11,900 | 98.9 | 171.0 | 175.0 | 106.0 | 20.65 | -0.70 |

In summing up the results of the work in 1959, it is necessary first of all to note that the coal industry of the Ukraine is marching firmly along the path of technical progress, along the path of the improvement of all qualitative indexes.

It is well known that a very important index of the work of a particular branch of industry is labor productivity. The task of increasing labor productivity in the coal industry, as a task of state importance, was mentioned by Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev in speeches which he made during his stay in the Donbass. Effective measures undertaken by the Central Committee of the party and by the Council of Ministers USSR were directed at the decisive increasing of labor productivity in the coal industry.

When speaking about the 1959 results, it is necessary first of all to note the rise in labor productivity at Donbass mines which has finally begun after a long period of marking time. Workers, engineers, technicians, and economic directors, under the guidance of party organizations,

have carried out a large amount of work to introduce new equipment, complete mechanization and automation of production processes, and to improve the technology and organization of production. This made it possible in 1959, in the Ukrainian Donbass, to increase the monthly labor productivity per worker engaged in coal production from 25.3 tons to 25.9 tons, or by 2.4%. In the Luganskoye Sovnarkhoz, the labor productivity rose by 3.3%, and in the Stalino, by 1.9%.

Individual trusts and mines achieved a still greater increase in labor productivity. This can be seen graphically in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Monthly labor productivity per worker engaged in coal production, in tons

| Name of trust or mine | 1958 | 1959 |
|--|------|------|
| <u>Stalino Sovnarkhoz</u> | | |
| Makeyevugol' | 19.4 | 20.9 |
| Sovetskugol' | 21.6 | 23.4 |
| Selidovugol' | 27.2 | 28.7 |
| Mine 22, of Snezhnyanantsit | 38.5 | 48.1 |
| "Kommunist-Novaya" Mine, Sovetskugol' Trust | 41.8 | 53.8 |
| "Proletarskaya-Glubokaya" Mine, Makeyevugol' Trust | 26.7 | 32.8 |
| <u>Lugansk Sovnarkoz</u> | | |
| Leninugol' | 19.7 | 22.6 |
| Pervomayskugol' Trust | 23.4 | 25.0 |
| "Nikanor" Mine, Voroshilovugol' Trust | 29.8 | 31.9 |
| Mine 10, Pervomayskugol' Trust | 22.6 | 24.5 |
| Mine 1/4, "Severo-Gundorovskaya" | 31.8 | 34.9 |
| Mine 7/8, Krasnoluch | 26.8 | 32.8 |
| Mine 69, Sverdlovugol' Trust | 31.5 | 40.2 |
| Sverdlovugol' Trust | 33.2 | 35.1 |

The list given does not, of course, exhaust the list of good examples. It would be possible to name many other mines and trusts. But it is important to emphasize that the work of these advanced trusts and mines deserves special attention, since the increase in labor productivity there was achieved not as a result of some especially favorable geological conditions, but by means of the persistent carrying out of effective measures to improve the utilization of equipment and to raise the over-all level of organization of the production and labor of the workers.

The increase in labor productivity at the mines of the Donbass in 1959 was provided for, to a considerable extent, by the further rise in

the level of mechanization of the basic processes, by the introduction of new equipment, and by the improvement of the systems of working the mines. In particular, major successes were achieved in mechanizing and automating surface operations at the mines. In 1959 the mechanization and automation of replacement of loading carts in above-mine buildings were carried out at an additional 49 mines in the Stalino Sovnarkhoz and at 35 mines in the Luganskoye Sovnarkhoz. At the present time these processes have been mechanized and automated at 139 mines, or more than 25% of the mines in the Ukrainian Donbass.

Another factor of no small importance for increasing labor productivity is the changeover to shaft systems of working. In 1959, more than 100 additional seams were converted to these systems in the Lugansk Sovnarkhoz, and 50 seams in the Stalino Sovnarkhoz. At the present time, the percentage of shaft systems of working is 32.5 in the Luganskoye Sovnarkhoz, and 13.6 in the Stalino Sovnarkhoz, whereas the percentage of shaft systems of working at mines in the Ukrainian Donbass in 1955 was just 8.

The improvement in the indexes of labor productivity during the past two years was also aided, to a considerable extent, by the concentration and intensification of production. This pertains chiefly to the improvement of the use of the line of the stopes.

Large-scale operations carried out during recent years at the mines of the Donbass to increase the handling capacity of underground transport, to speed up the rates of cutting preliminary workings, and to eliminate other bottlenecks, as well as the widespread mechanization of operations, made it possible in 1959 to carry out, at most mines, a changeover of all seams to organizing the operations on the basis of a cyclic schedule. As a result, the advancing of the effective line of the stopes, and correspondingly the load per seam, increased sharply, as can be seen from Table 3.

TABLE 3

| Sovnarkhoz and basin | Average monthly advancing of effective cleaning line of stope, in linear meters | | | Average monthly load per effective cleaning line, in tons | | |
|----------------------|--|------|------|---|------|------|
| | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 |
| Stalino | 30.6 | 30.6 | 33.7 | 156 | 157 | 177 |
| Luganskoye | 27.4 | 28.9 | 33.6 | 121 | 127 | 145 |
| including combines: | | | | | | |
| Luganskugol' | 25.6 | 27.4 | 32.4 | 108 | 110 | 125 |
| Donbassantratsit | 30.3 | 31.4 | 35.0 | 147 | 149 | 167 |
| Ukrainian | 29.3 | 29.9 | 33.7 | 140 | 143 | 163 |
| Donbass | | | | | | |
| L'vov-Volynian basin | 20.9 | 23.8 | 28.8 | 105 | 118 | 133 |

The data cited attests to the fact that the most significant increase in advancing of the effective line of the stopes was achieved by the Luganskoye Sovnarkhoz, particularly the Luganskugol' Combine. This is all the more important if one considers that many mines in that combine are distinguished by especially complicated mining and geological conditions.

In individual trusts, still greater rates of increase in the advancing of the effective line of the stopes were achieved in 1959. For example, in the Makeyevugol' Trust, the advancing rate increased from 26.3 meters in 1958 to 32.3 meters in 1959, or 23%; the respective figures for Sovetskugol' are 26 and 30.3; Pervomayskugol', 27.8 and 32.8; and Lisichanskugol' [Lisichansk Coal] 25.2 and 32.6 meters. Work deserving of special attention is that done by the Sverdlovugol' Trust, where the advancing of the effective line of the stopes increased in 1959 from 34 meters to 40.3 on the average during one month, and is the highest in the Donbass mines with a gentle fall in the seams. No other coal trust in the republic has achieved such rates for advancing the effective line of the stopes, and the experience of this work should be extended widely at all the mines in the Donbass.

All this attests to the fact that the technical state of the mines has greatly improved, and the level of organization of the production and labor of the workers has considerably risen. This, in its turn, has made it possible to improve the organization of cutting preliminary workings. As a result it became possible to carry out the successive cutting of several workings by one brigade and to raise the average monthly rates for the cutting of drifts. For example, in the Stalino Sovnarkhoz, the rates increased from 31.6 meters in 1958 to 44.5 meters in 1959; and in the Luganskoye Sovnarkhoz, from 32.1 to 44.6 meters. In the Krasnoarmeyskugol' Trust, the average monthly rates for the cutting of drifts reached 51 linear meters, and at the "Cherkasskaya-Severnaya" Number 2 Mine, in the Leninugol' Trust, to 100 meters a month. Such high average rates for the cutting of drifts for mines and trusts in the Donbass as a whole have never before been achieved. This has made it possible to convert many mines in the Ukraine to shaft systems of working, which are more effective.

An important role in improving the work of the mines was played by their changeover to the interrupted work week, which is being carried out in conformity with the decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR. At the present time, in the Luganskoye Sovnarkhoz the general day off has been introduced at 95% of the mines, and in the Stalino Sovnarkhoz, at 70%.

It must be noted that the measures to improve the technology and organization of production are being carried out most decisively and most successfully at the mines in the Luganskugol' Combine. And it is not accidental that the greatest rise in labor productivity was achieved during the past year at precisely that combine.

The new working conditions made it possible to improve the cultural, leisure and rest of the laborers and the engineer-technical workers, and

to increase their production and labor discipline. The changeover of the mines to the interrupted work week is making it possible to organize repair operations considerably better and consequently to improve the technical condition of the mine workings, machinery, and mobile and stationary equipment, and this provides for the more clear-cut and accident-free operation of the mines and contributes to increasing labor productivity.

It must, however, be said that the over-all increase in labor productivity could be higher. But a number of trusts have not carried out the necessary work to fulfill the measures linked with increasing labor productivity. These trusts include, primarily, Rutchenkovugol', Krasnogvardeyskugol', and Ordzhonkidzeugol'. The work done in this direction is inadmissibly poor at the Bokovoantratsit, Frunzeugol', and Gorlovskugol', trusts, where the labor productivity has not only increased, but has even decreased.

In 1960 the labor productivity for the coal industry of the republic is supposed to increase by 3%, including 3.5% in the Ukrainian Donbass, 6% in the L'vov-Volynian Basin, and 4.6% in the Dnepr Lignite Basin. It will be correct if the workers of the coal industry consider this planned assignment the minimal one and exceed it considerably. All the prerequisites for doing so exist.

First, the increase in load per seam and the reduction in the number of operating seams was accompanied in far from all places by a corresponding freeing of workers for other operations. At many mines even now, workers are kept in excess of the table of organization not only for the basic processes of coal production, but also for auxiliary operations. Meanwhile, it is precisely the correct placement of workers and the improvement of the organization of production that constitute one of the main reserves for the further increase of labor productivity.

Second, many mines still have large reserves for the further improvement of the use of the stope lines. For it will never be possible to consider the situation satisfactory when only 40% of the seams fulfill the cyclicity norms, and the remaining ones still have a low rate of advancement.

Third, large reserves for increasing labor productivity and lowering the net cost of production consist in the further mechanization of all the processes for coal production and in the improvement of technology. One cannot fail to note the extremely abnormal situation in which, at the Stalino Sovnarkhoz, only 50% of the available pool of combines is used, and at the Luganskoye Sovnarkhoz, only 45%. In other words, at the present time about 500 combines are inactive in the Bonbass, without even considering those which are being repaired or kept in reserve. Ore-loading machines are also used very poorly. In Stalino Sovnarkhoz 100 of these machines are not being used, and in the Luganskoye Sovnarkhoz, 200 of them. This uneconomical attitude to expensive equipment is completely intolerable, especially since the coal piling operations in the Donbass have been only 49% mechanized, and the loading of coal and rock in the preliminary workings have been only 72% mechanized.

Many groups of workers in Donbass Mines, and the Lugansk Sovnarkhoz as a whole, have taken on pledges to achieve in 1963 the level of labor productivity that was planned for 1965. This valuable initiative deserves every encouragement and support. It must be assumed that the miners of the Stalino, L'vov, and Kiev Sovnarkhozes will not lag behind the Luganskoye miners. Questions of increasing labor productivity must be in the center of attention of the administrative and ordinary workers at the mines, trusts, combines, and sovnarkhozes, and all the groups of miners in the republic, as a task of much importance to the national economy.

The same must be said about the lowering of the net cost of coal, the struggle for which was begun by miners on the initiative of Comrade Kol'chik. Results can already be felt in this undertaking. For the Stalino Sovnarkhoz the net cost per ton of coal last year was reduced 37 kopecks as compared with the plan, resulting in a saving of more than 30 million rubles. For the Luganskoye Sovnarkhoz, the saving achieved by reducing the planned net cost of coal during that period was about 5 million rubles. In recent times there has been an increase in the Donbass in the number of mines operating profitably without any state subsidy.

Considerable successes in work to reduce the net cost of coal were achieved by groups at the following mines; Mine imeni Rumyantsev, Kalininugol' Trust; "Mushketovskaya-Zapereval'naya" Mine, Budennovugol' Trust; Mine imeni Lutugin and Mine 3/3-bis, Chistyakovantratsit Trust; Mine 6, "Tsentrosoyuz", Sverdlovugol' Trust; Mines 19 and 20, Sovetskugol' Trust; "Kommunist-Novaya" Mine, Oktyabr'ugol' Trust; and many others which have been operating for a long time without state subsidy.

The miners at the "Nikanor" Mine, in the Voroshilovugol' Trust are fighting successfully to reduce the net cost of coal. This mine has introduced strict control of the expenditure of the wage fund, and personal record cards have been introduced for the purpose of accounting for the technical condition and utilization of machines and machinery. Computations of the specific expenditure of electric power have been re-examined, and an accurate accounting system has been introduced for the expenditure of lumber and other materials. As a result, the saving from the reduction in the net cost of coal at that mine for November 1959 alone was about 600,000 rubles.

At the same time, the coal industry still has many unutilized reserves for reducing the net cost of coal. A large number of trusts and mines are not fulfilling the net-cost plans. In 1959 alone, about 40% of the mines in the Donbass were unable to meet their assignment for the reduction of the net cost of coal. There are many mines where the net cost of coal even increased over the net cost previously achieved. As a result of shortcomings permitted in the production activity of the mines, the net cost of coal in the Rutchenkougol', Krasnogvardeyskougol', Bokovovantratsit, Voroshilovugol', and many other trusts not only did not drop in 1959, as compared with 1958, but even increased by 1.5-2%. The

The cost of coal in those trusts increased as a result of the uneconomical expenditure of materials, and electric power, and the extremely unsatisfactory utilization of mining equipment.

The workers of the coal industry must considerably intensify their work to reduce the net cost of coal. It is necessary to study the work of the advanced mines and to extend their experience broadly at all the mines in the republic. In addition to increasing labor productivity, the guaranteeing of profitable operation of the mines is a very important task of the miners.

The party and government have given the workers in the coal industry important tasks in the improvement of the quality and grade structure of fuel, and especially cooking coal, as a result of the rapid rates of development of ferrous metallurgy. In this direction, a certain amount of work has been done in recent times. Whereas the over-all production in the Donbass increased by 1.9% in 1959, the production of coal to be used for coking increased by 7.9%; the production of fatty coal to be used for power production increased by 4.5%; and the production of graded anthracites increased by 7.9%. During the same period, there was a reduction in the production of low grades and varieties of coal, the need for which, as a result of the conversion of many industrial enterprises and individual thermal electric-power stations to gas and mazut, has decreased at the present time. Thus, the production of lean coal varieties decreased by 1.25 million tons, or 7%, and the production of culm decreased by 2 million tons.

In 1959 the plan for the production of lignite briquettes was considerably overfulfilled. This is of great importance for improving the supplying of the public with high-grade fuel. The assignment was 2,810,000 tons, and 3,100,000 tons were produced, or 110.3% of the plan.

In 1959 a number of measures were carried out to improve the quality of coal. Whereas the ash content of the coal shipped during all the past years kept rising constantly, in 1959, as a result of improvements in the enrichment process, it was possible to reduce their ash content from 16.3 to 16.2%.

But even here a great deal was left undone. The situation with the quality of coal could have been considerably better if all the trusts had shown concern for this, instead of just individual trusts. The Rutchenkovugol', Krasnogvardeyskugol', Gorlovskugol', Kalininugol', Shakhterskantratsit, and Chistyakovantratsit trusts not only did not reduce the ash content of the coal which they shipped, but even permitted its quality to drop further. It must be expected that the directors of these trusts will take the necessary steps to improve the quality of production by improving the technology of mining and the operations of the enriching plants.

In order to improve the grade structure of the coal being produced, it was necessary to carry out a number of organizational and technical measures linked with the intensification of production at the mines producing the most needed grades of coal. At the same time, the

production at mines yielding lean coal was somewhat reduced, and certain small-scale unprofitable mines producing those grades of coal and culm anthracites were completely shut down. These measures, however, proved to be inadequate. The Stalino and Luganskoye Sovnarkhozes did not achieve the planned improvement in the grade structure of coal. The Stalino Sovnarkhoz, which had underfulfilled in 1959 its plan for production of sintering coal, produced 250,000 tons of lean coal in excess of the assignment; the Luganskoye Sovnarkhoz also did not fulfill its plan for sintering coal and produced 220,000 tons of lean coal in excess of the plan. This led to a situation in which certain consumers of sintering coal were unable to create the necessary reserves for the winter, and the lean coal produced in excess of the plan partially remained at the mine stockpiles. This harmed the state.

The nonfulfillment of the plan for production of sintering coal in 1959 was caused chiefly by the unsatisfactory work of the Krasnogvardeyskugol', Rutchenkougol', and Gorlovskugol' trusts, and especially Mine 29 of the Rutchenkougol' Trust, Mine 11 of the Kuybyshevogol' Trust, and mines 3/3-bis and 36/6-bis of the Kadiyevugol' Trust. These facts attest that the proper attention was not devoted to the operations of the mines and trusts producing sintering coal, and that they were not given the necessary organizational and technical assistance by the directors of the combines and sovnarkhozes. The material and technical resources were not concentrated at these mines in the necessary volumes, and little was done to reinforce the mines with more experienced, more highly skilled cadres capable of improving the operations.

As a result of the fact that in 1960 the increase in production of sintering coal to be used for coking will be increased by 8.1%, with an increase of 3.4% in over-all production, it is necessary to eliminate decisively the shortcomings in the operations of the mines producing those types of coal, and even in the beginning of the year to assure that all mines are fulfilling the plan.

A no less important task is the increasing of the production of graded anthracites and briquettes. Briquettes production is supposed to be increased in 1960 by 910,000 tons, or 26%, including stone-coal briquettes, 2.9 times.

In 1960 the production of graded anthracites is supposed to increase by 2,820,000 tons, or 18.7%. It will be necessary to assure that the increase in the production of graded anthracites will occur chiefly as a result of the increase in production of the most needed grade, AK, rather than the grade AS, as occurred in several trusts in 1959. It will be necessary to re-examine very carefully all the processes of mining, transporting, and processing of anthracites, and to assure the fulfillment of the measures planned for increasing the production of large and medium grades of anthracites at all mines.

It is also necessary to keep in mind that during the coming years the need for large grades of anthracite, as one of the best types of solid fuel, will increase, especially for satisfying the needs of the public-utility enterprises and the needs of the population in areas that

are not completely covered by the gas system. This must also be taken into consideration by the designers when they are creating new cutting machines, and by the design organizations when they are drawing up plans for the modernization of existing and the construction of new mines.

Thus, the complete expansion of production capacities for increasing the production of coking coal and for increasing the production of large grades of anthracite and briquettes is the chief task in providing the national economy with high-grade solid fuel.

When speaking about the results of the work of the coal industry of the republic in 1959, it is impossible not to mention the most serious shortcoming: we still have a rather large number of mines that are not fulfilling their plans for coal production, the increase of labor productivity, and the lowering of the net cost of coal. It certainly cannot be considered normal when, under present-day conditions, in individual trusts in the Donbass as many as 40% of the mines are not fulfilling their plan, or when, in the L'vov-Volynian Basin, which fulfilled its yearly plan by 104.5%, two out of 10 mines proved to be lagging behind.

The protracted lag on the part of many mines in the Donbass can be explained by nothing other than poor organizer work done by the sovmarkhozes, combines, and trusts, and by the absence of necessary help. Let us take, for example, Mine 29 of the Rutchenkuvugol' Trust. It fulfilled its 1959 plan by only 88% and has been among the lagging organizations for the past four years. The same thing can be said about mines 13-bis, of the Sovetskugol' Trust; 17, of the Budennovugol' Trust; the "Yunkom" Mine, of the Ordzhonikidzeugol' Trust; and mines 18 and 21 of the Snezhnyanatratsit Trust, which have not been fulfilling their plans for several years. It is, of course, impossible to be reconciled to such an obviously abnormal situation. Evidently one can see the effects here of shortcomings in planning, which also should be eliminated as soon as possible.

The patriotic movement begun by Valentina Gaganova has met an enthusiastic response at the mines of the republic. The first to follow her example were advanced chiefs of sections and mines, comrades Chertov, Yakushëv, Manzhula, and others. They transferred over to the sectors and mines that were lagging farthest behind and rectified their work in short time.

However, the existence of a large number of lagging mines and sectors attests to the fact that everything has not yet been done to improve their work, and that the tremendous force of the movement begun by Valentina Gaganova has been far from completely utilized.

It will be necessary, from the first days of 1960, for the directors of sovmarkhozes, combines, and trusts to examine attentively the work of each lagging mine, and primarily those where the plan for coal production has not been fulfilled for a long time, and it will be necessary for them to render those mines the necessary material-technical and organizational help, and reinforce them with more experienced and more capable cadres. We can and must give ourselves the task of assuring

that in 1960 there will be no mines that are not coping with the state assignment for all plan indexes.

As was already mentioned, after the XXI Party Congress and the June Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the work on creating and introducing new equipment became considerably intensified in the coal industry of the Ukraine. At the present time much is being done to mechanize and automate the surface complexes of the mines. More than 1,400 stationary mine machines and other pieces of equipment have been converted to automatic and remote control. In 1959 the republic's plants for coal-machine building and the electrical industry manufactured, in experimental models and consignments, more than 150 types of new machines and machinery, 45 of which had already undergone industrial tests and had been released for series production. The plants began to produce the more productive LGD combines with hydraulic feed; K-19 combines for steep rate of fall; K-8N combines for inclined rate of fall; KSR-1 and KSTI-20 scraper conveyors; LS and SU type, constant-resistance, metal props for supporting the cleaning stopes; GGT-72 gyratory screening machines; AUK type apparatus for automatic control of conveyor lines; "Ukraina" head lamps, which make it possible to convert the lamps to self-contained units; and a number of other machines and pieces of machinery.

There are, of course, successes in this work, but the rates for the creation of new machines and machinery are still very low. It is necessary to take decisive steps for the successful carrying out of tests and finishing operations for sets of equipment and machines that fundamentally improve the technology of coal production and provide for the complete mechanization of all the production processes. In particular, it will be necessary to accelerate tests on the narrow-cut multi-combine set MK-1 and the set of equipment with the UDK combine for cutting coal on gently sloping seams 0.7-1 meter deep, the KShKh set for the mechanized cutting of drifts in a wide swath, and the shuttle-action narrow-cut KRD combine for the conditions of the L'vov-Volynian Basin. It will also be necessary to accelerate finishing operations for the shuttle-action UMK multi-bar combine, which has successfully undergone tests and which produces 1000 tons of coal per 24-hour period from the seam, and to organize the production of an experimental consignment of those combines. It will also be necessary to organize as quickly as possible the industrial production of separators with a vertical wheel for enriching coal in difficult environments.

The 1960 plan envisages the complete mechanization and automation of 21 mines, the complete mechanization of operations at 210 cleaning stopes with gentle rate of fall, the mechanization of coal cutting at 100 stopes with steep rate of fall, and the carrying out of a large amount of work for the further introduction of automatic and remote control of machines and machinery.

In order to solve successfully the large tasks of creating the varied types of equipment needed for the mechanization and automation

45 meters a month. In April 1959, with the aid of a KS-1M unit, 264.6 meters of finished shaft were cut during the construction of the "Novo-Butovka" Mine. That was a new world record at the time. At the same time the mine-builders' rates for the cutting of horizontal and inclined workings still remain low and, on the average, are 48 meters a month for the cutting of crosscuts, 75 meters for drifts, 80 meters for slopes /bremsberg/, and 70 meters for inclines. This is extremely inadequate.

We can no longer be reconciled to the situation in which the available experience in organizing the high-speed cutting of mine workings with average rates of 150-180 meters a month is not extended the way it should be at all mines under construction or in operation in the republic. Let us take for example the experience at the projects in the L'vov-Volynian Basin. More than 40% of all the workings here were carried out by high-speed methods last year, and individual horizontal workings were cut at a speed of up to 425 meters a month. All this indicates that the average rates achieved for the cutting of mine workings in the republic can be at least doubled.

The increasing of the rates of cutting mine workings is a very important prerequisite for accelerating and for reducing the costs of mine construction. It is precisely this area that constitutes the first-priority task of the mine builders.

The miners of the Ukraine have entered the second year of the seven-year plan completely resolved, under the direction of the Communist Party, to achieve new production successes and to fulfill outstandingly the tasks assigned to them. They have all the prerequisites for reaching ahead of time the limits set down by the seven-year plan. And conviction of this directed the members of the communist labor brigade headed by Nikolay Mamay, when that group pledged itself to produce 5,000 tons of coal in excess of the plan during the year that has begun. The brigade of Ivan Belousov pledged itself to produce an additional 7,000 tons, and to reduce the net cost per ton of coal produced by one ruble and to increase labor productivity by 12-15%. This remarking initiative of the illustrious miners of the Donbass was most ardently supported in all miners' groups, at all mines, sectors, and brigades.

At the present time all the mining enterprises of the republic are in the midst of a mighty socialist competition for the meritorious meeting of the XXI Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine. The coal miners of the Ukraine will report to that congress on their new labor victories.